

Knowledge and Attitude on Eye Donation Among Nonmedical Staff in a Tertiary Care Teaching Hospital at Puducherry, India

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Extended Abstract

Abstract

A shortage of transplantable corneas is common and has been the subject of much attention. To increase procurement of corneas, raising the level of public education on eye donation is an important first step. Well-informed non-medical staff could be expected to influence eye donation rates. Objective of this study is to assess the knowledge and attitude on eye donation among nonmedical staff. The current descriptive study was conducted among hospital attendants and secretaries working in a tertiary care teaching hospital at Puducherry. After approval from Institutional Review Board, and the concerned authorities, the study participants were informed about the nature and purpose of the study and written informed consent was obtained from them. Study participants were selected by using simple random sampling method. The data was collected by interview method using the structured questionnaire. Most of the participants had average level of knowledge (54%) and favourable attitude (88%) towards eye donation.

Keywords

Organ Donation; Cornea; Procurement; non-medical staff

Introduction

Corneal diseases are more importance reason for visual impairment and blindness in the developing countries. Corneal blindness is the cause for 25% of blindness in India. Although strategies to prevent corneal blindness are likely to be more cost-effective, visual rehabilitation by corneal transplantation remains a major treatment option for restoring sight in those who already have corneal blindness. In India the awareness on organ donation is very less but the need for organ is very high. Donating organs is a great deed as donating life to other. Approximately 18.7 million people are blind in India and 190,000 are blind from bilateral corneal disease. Every year, another 20,000 join the list. According to the Eye Bank Association of India, the current cornea procurement rate in India is 22,000 per year. Based upon the current ratio of available safe donor eyes, we would need 277,000 donor eyes to perform 100,000 corneal transplants in a year in India. There is approximately a 20-fold increase from the donor eyes available now. A shortage of transplantable corneas is common and has been the subject of much attention. To increase procurement of corneas, raising the level of public education on eye donation is an important first step. Soliciting for actual eye donation at the time of death is a necessary and accepted practice. Well-informed non-medical staff could be expected to influence eye donation rates. The education of non-medical staff may lead to better procurement rates for donor organs. So this study was designed to assess the level of knowledge and attitude on eye donation among non-medical staff. Objective of this study is to assess the knowledge and attitude on eye donation among nonmedical staff.

Methods

The current descriptive study was conducted among hospital attendants and ward secretaries working at Pondicherry Institute of Medical Sciences, Puducherry from May 2019 to December 2019. Nonmedical staff of age 18 years and above, both Male and Female staff on temporary or permanent category and working hospital, administration wing, MRD and laboratory were selected. After approval from Institutional Review Board, and the concerned authorities, the study participants were informed about the nature and purpose of the study and written informed consent was obtained from them. Study participants were selected by using simple random sampling method. The data was collected by interview method using the structured knowledge questions to assess the knowledge and modified four point likert scale to assess the knowledge on eye donation.

Discussion

In the present study half of the study participants belong to the age group of 31 to 40 years, 77% of them were females, 85% were Hindus, 80 % were hospital attendants, 44% of them have 11 to 15 years of working experience, 5% participants friends or family members have donated eyes, 66% have learned about eye donation from hospital workers and 60% of the participants are willing to donate the eyes of self or their family members. (Table.1)

Table.1. Demographic variables of study participants

Demographic Variables	Frequency
Age in years	
21 - 30	6
31- 40	52
41 – 50	26
51 – 60	16
Gender	
Male	23
Female	77
Religion	
Hindu	85
Christian	15
Designation	
Hospital Attendant	80
Secretaries	20
Working experience	
< 5 Years	11
6 - 10 Years	26
11 – 15 Years	44
16 – 20 Years	19
History of Eye Donation by family members or friends	
Yes	5
No	95
Knowledge on eye donation gained from	
Internet	14
Hospital workers	66
Others	20
Willing to donate the eyes of self and family members	
Yes	60
No	40

Conclusion: The findings of the study showed 42 % of the participants are having poor knowledge on eye donation. So education program is needed to create awareness among the non-medical staff working in the hospitals. The education of non-medical staff may lead to better procurement rates for donor organs.